

**Camden Select Board  
Minutes of Special Select Board Meeting  
December 12, 2011**

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Martin Cates, Vice Chairperson Morgan Laidlaw, James Heard, Donald White, and Town Manager Patricia Finnigan, and Town Attorney William Kelly. No members of the press or public were present.

**ABSENT:** John French, Jr.

1. Chair person Martin Cates called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.
2. **Consideration of an Ordinance to Regulate the Sale and/or Use of Consumer Fireworks, set the date for a public hearing, and approve the Warrant for a Special Town Meeting**

The Maine Legislature enacted a new law, effective January 1, 2012, that makes it legal to sell and use consumer fireworks in Maine. The law allows municipalities to determine whether they want to allow people to use or sell consumer fireworks within the municipality. The proposed ordinance would prohibit the sale and the use of consumer fireworks in Camden. The ordinance would impose fines of not less than \$200 or more than \$400 for the first offense of setting off consumer fireworks within Camden. For future violations, the fine is not less than \$300 nor more than \$600. The fines for anyone selling consumer fireworks illegally is \$500 for the first offense and \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.

This law does not apply to or change the process to do commercial fireworks shows, such as professional fireworks displays for 4<sup>th</sup> of July or similar events. Those types of fireworks displays are regulated by the State Fire Marshall and require a permit which must be approved by the State Fire Marshall.

After questions of Town Attorney William Kelly, the Select Board discussed the proposed ordinance, including concerns that allowing the use of fireworks by non-professionals would be a public safety and fire hazard.

*Don White made a motion to approve the Warrant to schedule a Special Town Meeting on December 20 and hold a public hearing on the proposed Ordinance to Regulate the Sale and/or Use of Consumer Fireworks. James Heard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

*There being no further business to be considered by the Board, Morgan Laidlaw made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 a.m. The motion was seconded by James Heard. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

Respectfully submitted,

---

Patricia A. Finnigan  
Town Manager

